

SECRET
Attach. # 1

to CAGWU 1725

SECURITY INFORMATION

Memorandum

7 July 1952

Subject: Debriefing of Pine Tree Team - Part I - RGFlend

To : []

From : []

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 2028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

1. Following, beginning with their drop, is the personal account of Pine Tree's infiltration and stay in Komaahooland.

They had been told by the dispatcher that they would be dropped in Dac. However, when they landed they found the area was completely unknown to them and they had actually landed just below Goloj, approximately 5 miles from Dac. It took 15 minutes for Big and Little Pine to rejoin. As soon as they had regrouped they gave the light signal as prearranged, the plane answered with its green wing lights. They waited for the drop but no parachutes were visible. At day break they continued their search for the bundles, supposing that they may have fallen into a valley, but they were unable to find any signs of chutes or bundles. About 6 a.m. they ran across a sleeping shepherd and decided to wake him and question him. They inquired as to his village and whether he was pro-Communist or not, he replied that he was from Goloj but he was about his own business and would they mind their own. Little Pine felt from his actions and the look on his face he could be trusted. They told him they were "Fighters for Free Albania" and asked if he would be willing to give them some information. The shepherd then told them that parachutes with packages had been dropped in the village of Goloj and the Army had arrived there and picked up an unknown number of bundles. Then he showed them the direction to Vranisht and was given four dollars (\$4) for his assistance.

On the way to Vranisht they came upon a house and decided to ask for food. They met two young boys near the house and asked if they would get them something to eat. The boys answered that it would be necessary for them to ask their father. The father refused to give bread, whereupon Little Pine explained that they were not bad people. The old man became more insistent so Little Pine forced his way into the house and took a loaf of bread. Then the old man explained that he had been warned by the Sigurimi not to give aid to anyone if he wished to remain in good health.

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Before leaving this house Pine Team inquired of the two boys the distance to the Yugoslav border (this was done in order to conceal their true route). After this question Pine continued their journey toward Vranisht. During daylight they enciphered their first message to be sent by VHF later in the day. They met another shepherd and asked if he knew the home of Mush Ibishi (one of the contacts supplied by BOFiend), he replied that he did and further explained that he was a good man and well thought of by the Party.

Continuing on their journey they came upon a large house with well tended fields, which they believed to be the house of some wealthy person or high Party official. However, having very little food this looked like a good opportunity. To the north of the house they noticed 6 persons coming down the road, three were armed soldiers the other three were unarmed civilians. The group headed for the house and as they came closer Pine gathered that the civilians were being forced. Pine waited in their place of hiding until sunset, with the radios hidden they made their way toward the house. They met an elderly lady at the front gate and when she saw them, called for a young boy. Pine asked if anyone was home and received the reply that the men had not returned from the fields. The young boy agreed to take them into the house (at this point it was suspected that they had been observed and that possibly a trap had been set). Little Pine followed the boy in while Big Pine stayed on guard at the gate. Upon entering the house he found an old man in the big room. Little Pine asked if he had seen anything of their six friends (the six previously mentioned). He was told that his friends had passed by earlier. The old man asked if they wanted food. Little Pine replied that they would like some bread but that they would have to take the bread with them as they wanted to catch up with their friends.

Vranisht was reached later that evening. It was raining very hard and it was impossible to know which end of the village they had entered so they began calling the name Mush Ibishi. An elderly lady directed them to his home. When they reached his home a young boy came out and said that Ibishi was not home. Little Pine turned his flashlight on the house and saw a man standing in the door. He inquired if he was Ibishi and whether he knew Barjaktari. The man replied he did, then proceeded to take the two members of Pine Tree to task for having dropped their material at Goloj. Ibishi was very cordial and asked the team into his house and fed them

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well. Little Pine explained that they had come on a mission and that Ibishi should give them all possible aid and assistance. Ibishi informed them of the following:

- a. The Sigurimi was aware of the presence of a group in the area.
- b. The whole area would be searched within the next day or so.
- c. The whole population is against the government but there is no trust among the people.

Ibishi was given a gold pound and asked to direct the team to Has.

The team headed for Has but came out at a sheep fold above a small unknown village. It was decided to look for food in the village and also to inquire about the November Team (Pine had been briefed to try to come in contact with the November Team). As Pine Team approached the village a company of soldiers were visible but they were marching away from the village (identity of unit was unknown). Pine hid in the bushes until the soldiers were completely out of view. By this time it was time for VHF contact but because they were in a valley they knew that contact would be impossible so they did not attempt.

At this time the team decided to cross the White Drin. They headed for the river where they found a small boat. After they had carefully studied the area they entered a boat and with a pole tried to push the boat across, they were only five meters off shore when firing broke out from across the river. They tipped the boat over and swam for the shore (this story was received in their S.I. letter number 1 of 15 June 1951). Upon reaching shore they started for the small village previously mentioned. As they were not pursued across the river it was felt they would be safe for the time being.

Pine again encountered the young boy from the home where they had received bread. He told them that his family had been afraid that they might be Sigurimi agents but now he was sure they were working for the liberation of their country. Pine learned that the old man's name was Dean Liman. (No relation to Little Pine)

At this point the Team was completely lost as to what action to take. It was impossible to cross the White Drin because of the army guards. They finally decided that the only road open to them

them was to cross into Yugoslavia and then re-cross to Albania above the Drin. They headed for the town of Bustrik which is about one-half hour walk from the Yugoslavia border. This area was chosen as it was thought that it would be less noticeable

That evening, under heavy rainfall, they headed straight for the border. They came across a white pyramid which was the border marker. Up to this point they had been unnoticed but at the last minute a search light was turned toward them and firing broke out from both sides of the border. They dashed across the border into Yugoslavia and continued to run for sometime; however, they were not chased. They followed the border closely and re-crossed into Albania at Koriknik, from here they headed for Gegin where they contacted Halim Rexhip who sheltered them for four days.

Because they were without arms for this entire period (all their equipment was lost on the original drop) they decided to head for Lushin, Little Pine's home town. At Little Pine's home they were supplied with one British machine-gun and one Italian rifle. They pushed on to Mt. Ronas as the date for their re-supply drop was drawing near.

Again their efforts and hopes of reaching the D.Z. were hindered and stopped, the river Drine Zi could not be crossed, this meant another trip back to Lushin. Food offered no problem as Miftar Amheti of Umisht supplied them with food for the trip back to Lushin.

On the 18th of June the plane was heard and on 19 June it was heard again, no drop was made because of Pine's inability to reach the D.Z. as previously mentioned. It would be another month before the plane would return so Lushin became base until 10 July.

On 10 July the Drin e Zi was crossed and Big Pine led the way Surroj where they spent two days before heading for the D.Z.

The D.Z. was covered with dry grass so it was necessary to build small fireplaces to prevent the field from being set afire.

The plane was heard and the fires were lighted, on the first pass the drop began. Eight packages were retrieved, the ninth was lost. (Pine Tree was impressed with the resupply drop which was more successful than their original drop. The bundles fell not more than ten meters from the center of the "wind it")

After all the bundles were securely hidden Pine Tree returned to Surroj. They informed their friends that at a later date they would receive supplies.

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supplies.

While at Surroj several persons were contacted and the search for November Team was continued. It was learned that November Team had been in contact with Halim Rexhip but their present whereabouts were unknown.

In Lushin, Hasni Peposhi, brother of Little Pine, was sent to contact Velu Cina, father of Ramadan Cina, and ask that a time and place be set where the two groups could meet. Repnice was set as the meeting place. Pine reports that they waited all night but there was no sign of Ramadan Cina.

As it was about time for the second resupply drop, Pine accompanied by 14 friends and a Yugoslav team which they had met in Surroj, headed for the D.Z.

The second resupply proved even more successful than the first. The contents of the 12 bundles were divided up among the followers with the exception of the 6 Schmiessers and several pairs of shoes. (The Schmiessers were defective, the shoes could not be taken because of their newness.)

Upon returning to Lushin, Hasni Peposhi was once again sent to Velu Cina to arrange a meeting, the same area and password was to be used. Hasni Peposhi headed for Kukes after contacting the elder Cina, here he came in contact with Halim Rexhip and Xhefer Miftar (Miftar is a cousin of Big Pine). They came to the conclusion that Cina could not be trusted. After receiving this information Pine decided not to attempt the second meeting for fear of being trapped.

Several days later, Rifat Kolgini, leader of a Yugoslav team, informed Pine that the Yugoslav authorities wanted to contact them. Pine informed Kolgini they would agree to such a meeting but that no one below the rank of Lt. Col. would be considered. It was at this time that Kolgini (Rifat Kolgini, previously mentioned is the same person asked to carry G.I. letters for Pine) informed the team that all members of Ramadan Cina's group were interned in Prizren. The following names were given:

1. Ramadan Velu Cina
2. Nerguti
3. Reg Berisha
4. Blana

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This information was believed to be true as it would explain why Ramadan Cina had not appeared for the pre-arranged contact.

The date for the meeting with the Yugoslav officer was set for 5 September. The officer was to be (fnu) Jedemovitch.

Back in Surroj Pine received a letter from Halil Nerguti asking that they visit Halim Rexhep and wait there for Nerguti and the rest of the November Team. Pine waited at the home of Rexhip for ten days but no further word was received from Nerguti. Halim Rexhep feared that the Sigurimi might be on to him and he asked to be lead to the Yugoslav frontier.

As a result of his conversation with Halim Rexhep Little Pine feared that his brother Husni Peposhi might also be in danger, it was decided to have Husni accompany the team. Pine directed his brother to apply for permission to visit Tirana (in this way his absence from home would not be noticed). Little Pine also sent word to Captain Cinan Mati, ass't chief of the Sigurimi for Kukes to stop any action by the Sigurimi in regard to Husni's whereabouts. (Little Pine explained that Captain Cinan Mati is to be trusted and can be called upon to act in the event that a serious revolt takes place.)

Word never reached Captain Mati, therefore, Pine was not aware that the Sigurimi had already started to search for them. This unfortunate situation brought about the death of Husni. Husni Peposhi had decided to return to his home for blankets, as he entered the gate he was fired upon by the Sigurimi which had taken over their home. Husni was not killed outright but was taken into the house where he was searched and questioned. The following information and articles were extracted from him:

- (a) Razor blades (American make) soap, a luxury item.
- (b) He acknowledged the fact that he had been in contact with his brother but as he was on his death bed he could not be forced to say anymore. (Information received at LCOBrink from local source informed us that Husni Peposhi was hospitalized in Kukes under Sigurimi guard.)

Two days later, fearing some mishap had occurred, Little Pine returned to his home and was informed of his brother's fate by other members of his family. (NOTE: It is interesting to know that Little Pine toyed with the idea of evacuating his family to Yugoslavia but

but he thought that such a move would be looked down on by other villagers who had aided him.)

Husni Peposhi did not die in the hospital in Kukes but began to worry that Little Pine would fear that the Sigurimi would force him to talk so with the help of Cinan Mati it was arranged to have Selman Peposhi, a cousin, visit Husni. Before Selman Peposhi, Husni took an oath that he would not reveal Pine Tree's hiding place. Husni Peposhi was later moved to a hospital in Skoder where he died.

On the 5th of September Rifat Kolgini contacted Pine and on the 7th, accompanied by Kolgini and his Yugoslav sponsored group, Pine Tree headed for the Yugoslav border and their meeting with Col. Jedomovitch (Chedomovitch).

The two groups were met at Kalabak by a Lt. Vasko (fnu). He informed them that he would accompany the groups and they would go to Krushe. At Krushe they were met by Major (fnu) Melle, Capt. Vlado Popovitch and a Capt. (fnu) Grosere. Major Melle explained that Col. Jedomovitch was away but he was expected back in 3 days and had left instructions for Pine Tree to wait for his return in Prizren. Pine Tree was quartered in the home of a Yugoslav officer.

On 10 September the Colonel arrived and told them the following:

- (a) He desired to meet them because they were working for a common cause.
- (b) Teams working in Albania were considered Allies.
- (c) They would be welcomed in Yugoslavia at any time.
- (d) He inquired as to what plans Hasan Dosti and Muharem Barajaktari had for the future. (It is quite possible that he may have asked about Dosti, however, this writer feels that Barajaktari was thrown in by Little Pine for good measure.)
- (e) Barjaktari and the MCFA would be contacted. (This may be true but sounds a bit far fetched)

Following are the replies that Pine Tree claims to have made to the Colonel:

- (a) They were working for the NCFA.
- (b) They were unable to say what the Committee's plans were.
- (c) Would Pine Tree team be allowed to spend the winter months in Yugoslavia as illegal border crossers without obligations to the Yugoslav authorities?

The Colonel agreed to allow Pine to enter during the winter months unhampered by any local authorities.

Pine Tree states that they posted a letter to base at this time saying they would await the September drop at Lushen. (BGfiend LCflake never received this S.I. letter).

The new base was established at Lushen where numerous contacts were made. (In order to avoid duplication of long lists of names the contacts will be found in part II under resistance).

Early in October Pine Team headed for Surroj where they would stay until time for the October drop. While in Surroj they were informed that the Sigurimi was aware of the D.Z. at Mi e Rones and the area was being guarded. Then the team decided that Nica at J-0862 would be the new D.Z. (moves within a radius of 20 miles had been agreed prior to Pine's infiltration).

On 9 October Pine Team, accompanied by a 9 man Yugoslav team and 4 civilians from Arna, headed for Nica. On 15 October Little Pine tested wind direction and felt that the heavy winds would have forced the plane to stay grounded. He returned to the rest of the group and explained the situation. However, less than one hour later a plane was heard, Little Pine, accompanied by his friends, ran for the D.Z.. As the plane came into view there had only been time enough for one fire to be lighted, on the second pass by the Covert craft all fires were burning (this is in agreement with the air crew debriefing after this mission).

Pine team reported this drop was extremely poor due to the Covert Craft's high altitude drop. Pine Tree made the following comments on the drop:

- (a) Only 13 packages were recovered (26 were dropped)

- (b) The bundles fell about one hour walking distance from the D.Z., one falling on the D.Z..
- (c) It took one-half hour for the w/t mission of Faik Dalip and Koci Dula to come in contact with the reception committee.

Pine Tree and company remained at the D.Z. until daybreak and busied themselves hiding the newly received parcels. At daybreak several other chutes were spotted hanging from trees in the distance. It was agreed that an attempt should be made to retrieve them for the security of the mission. While moving toward the area where the chutes were visible, Pine spotted and was spotted by a patrol of 30 armed men. Little Pine states that they were certainly seen but the armed patrol believing that the group was much larger than was actually visible allowed them to escape. (There have been numerous reports in the past that individual soldiers would allow armed men to pass but this is the first report of a whole platoon acting in this manner.)

Pine Tree watched the armed group pick up all the remaining chutes and then headed for their base. Pine Tree headed for Nica where they divided their supplies among friends, parted company with them and continued on to Lushen which was to be the winter base.

A hut had been built in the mountain area above Lushen where it was hoped they could pass the winter but many unfortunate occurrences and extremely rough weather forced them to decide to inquire if the Yugoslavs would still be willing to offer them sanctuary for the winter. Pine sent word with a Yugoslav team to the Colonel. He replied that his friendly offer was still open. After securing the w/t set, arms, and food supplies they made tracks for the Yugoslav border.

At Prizren Pine was told it would take three days before a house could be found for them but in the meantime they could either wait with a Yugoslav family or go to the home of Dalip Zyberi (Zyberi was a Barjaktari contact and letter drop used by Pine in Prizren). Pine decided to remain with the Yugoslav family but as time wore on and quarters were still unavailable it became evident to Pine Tree that the Yugoslavs were only interested in taking a NCPA team out of action and thereby leaving the way open for only Yugoslav teams in the Kossova area.

One day Capt. (fnu) Grocere arrived at their winter home and informed Pine that they would be required to give any information they had regarding conditions in Albania. Pine Team refused to give any information stating that they were invited by the Yugoslav Government and the agreement with Col. Jedomovitch was that they would not be forced to make any statements against their will.

The Yugoslav authorities became quite upset by Pine Tree's attitude and Pine reports that numerous unfriendly acts were committed by the Yugoslavs against Pine.

While in Yugoslavia many Albanians were contacted, however, some of them were apparently working for the Yugoslav cause. Many of the meetings between Pine and Albanian emigrants were known to the Yugoslavs through these informers.

Some time pasted but one day Lutfi Spaniu, Albanian emigrant and member of the Prizren Committee, accompanied by an army officer and a member of the Yugoslav intelligence service visited Pine Tree. Spaniu did not make it known to the members of Pine Tree that he had been sent by Col. Jedomovitch but spoke with a great deal of personal authority, he stated:

- (a) That the Yugoslav Government was good enough to have kept them all this time, therefore they should cooperate.
- (b) They should stop making propaganda against the Yugoslavs.
- (c) The Yugoslav authorities have decided it would be impossible to keep Pine in an illegal status any longer, they should declare themselves as political refugees.

Pine Tree replied:

- (a) If they had acted against the Yugoslavs they should have been told.
- (b) They came to Albania for a specific job.
- (c) While in Yugoslavia they contacted only Albanians and discussed Albanian affairs.
- (d) They would not be willing to give up the mission they had undertaken because it was desired by the Yugoslavs.
- (e) If the Yugoslav Government could no longer keep them

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under the original agreement then Pine would leave.

Two days later Lutfi Spaniu returned and this time informed the group that he had acted under orders from Col. Jedomovitch and that he was glad Pine Team had answered as they did. This information caused Pine Tree to decide to leave Yugoslavia by May.

Three days after Spaniu's second visit Colonel Jedomovitch, a major and a security captain visited Pine Team. The Colonel stated:

- (a) The Prizren Committee had been complaining about Pine Team and because of these complaints he had to reverse his earlier agreement.
- (b) Pine Tree would be allowed to stay in Yugoslavia but only as political refugees and not in the Prizren area. He suggested Metrovitch.

However, after consulting with the other two officers present, the Colonel's parting words were that a house would be found for them in Prizren.

Three days later the security officer returned and informed Pine that a house in Prizren was impossible. After this information Pine Tree decided that May 28 would be their date of departure. (This station received an S.I. letter which stated that Pine would head for Albania on 28 May.)

May 24 brought a very heavy snowstorm and it appeared that Pine would be delayed still longer. They asked if they would be allowed to stay on for several more days as they had sent word for instructions to Barjaktari. Again the Yugoslavs showed great concern for Barjaktari and informed Pine that they would be willing to send him a message by a special messenger who was heading for Athens on the following day. Little Pine stated that he wrote such a letter and handed it to the local authorities.

No answer was received by 4 June and now the deadline was set for 8 June. They were told that they would be led to the Albanian border. At the border they were met by 2 captains of the border guards and a Capt. (fnu) Vesco of the security. Heavy rains on 6 June delayed their infiltration to Albania until 9 June. They crossed into Albania on the morning of the 9th of June and recrossed into Yugoslavia that night.

Pine had prepared for the journey by using the money and supplies received in the CARE packages. They reported that with the flour they had friends bake bread and a type of Balkan sweet (Kurabia), this in addition to salt, sugar and multi-vitamin tablets purchased in Yugoslavia completed their food supplies. Each man carried approximately 15 kilos of food.

After recrossing into Yugoslavia Pine travelled undetected for three nights, on the morning of the fourth day they were completely exhausted due to lack of water so when they rested all fell asleep. They were discovered by a shepherd whom they tipped very well (4 gold pounds) and he gave his word he would not mention that he had seen them.

Throughout the whole journey the team travelled at night, this was necessary because the team believed Yugoslav authorities would be on the look out for them.

Near Prespa the team was again seen, as they were bathing their feet, by an unknown armed civilian who fired three shots at them. Pine Tree did not return the fire but headed for a wooded area. This was the only time they moved during daylight hours.

The team continued unharmed toward the Greek frontier, arriving at the border 18 days after they had begun their journey. They crossed into Greece at 0030 hours on 27 June at Germanova.

Pine Tree reports that they were well received by the Greek Authorities at the border. There were no questions asked other than the code name of the team. Pine tree was picked up by this station on 28 June and quartered in the holding area.

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Attach. # 2 to 1725 CAGWU

SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

2 July 1952

Subject: Pine Tree Debriefing - Part II - SHAM/BOFIEND

To : ()

From : ()

Part II of the debriefing is conducted in order that all BOHives may be systematically recorded. For this portion of the debriefing the BOFIend Interrogation Guide, as amended, was used where applicable.

I. Documentation:

- (1) The only necessary document is the Leter Njoftim.
- (2) To the best knowledge of this group there have been no changes in the Leter Njoftim.
- (3) New faces in an area are required to show their Leter Njoftim.
- (4) Police officers in every village carry a book with the numbers of all Leter Njoftims issued in their village. (It would be very difficult to pass a Leter Njoftim except in some area other than your own.)
- (5) All persons travelling from one village to another must receive written permission to travel.
- (6) Upon arriving at your destination you are required to register with the local authorities - showing all forms of identification.
- (7) The Fronti Democratic card is issued only to persons who are not suspected by the party of any ill feeling toward the government.
- (8) The Fronti card serves as a purchasing ticket for food or clothing.

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(9) Other documents carried are:

- (a) Liberza Ustarak - by discharged servicemen.
- (b) This group had not heard or seen a Bileta Ustarak.
- (c) One Liberza Ustarak was seen, it was tan in color - it belonged to a Party member.

(10) A Fronti Democratic card would be helpful if one is required to show identification.

II. Names of Anti-Party people - listed by towns and areas:

Lusen (Kuke)
Xheladin Peposhi
Shaban Peposhi
Selman Peposhi
Ramiz Peposhi
Ali Peposhi
Ram Peposhi
Esak Peposhi
Brexhap Dokuze
Sherif Dokuze
Osman Shahini
Aslan Islami

Ujmishte (Luma)

Isman Bechiri
Miftar Ahmeti
Hasan Maliq
Seld Xhemaliu (Jemaliu)
Isak Kasame
Brexhip Tusha
Surroj (Luma)

Xhefar Miftar
Ahmet Dema
Tef Aleze
Kurt Dojani

Vile (Luma)

Destan Vata
Chesim Dalip
Chahim Islami
Mahmut Fetah

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Bustritch (Luma)

Gani Maliq
Menet Hurti
Nebi Metsi
Ahmet Gjana

Kalishe (Luma)

Murat Mera
Mede Datse
Abdulla Isha

Buz e Mathe (Luma)

Hasan Velqi
Veli Ramadani

Topejan (Luma)

Tahir Serani
Samet Zyberi
Shahin Muharemi
Baki Ismeni
Mahmut Racmani
Asan Miftar
Tosun Isufi
Sef Hera
Destan Biftari
Aledin Rustemi
Baki Shehapi

Shestevets (Luma)

Sali Ibrahim

Stresan (Luma)

Xheladin Zaine
Neciam Aliu

Novoca (Luma)

Ibrahim Sadiku
Shefar Liman
Dean Basha

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SECURITY INFORMATION

Borjia (Diber)

Abdulla Baftari
Mustafa Hoxha
Oreshke

Oreshke (Luma)

Abdul Mahamuti

Nimche (Luma)

Biram Sulla
Taf Merta

Luma (Luma)

Xhefar Rexhip
Mal Nueha

Bella (Luma)

Ali Reship

Aran (Luma)

Mahmut Gjema
Xheladin Hakiku
Umer Coka
Halit Coka

Lura (Diber)

Ibrahim Xoxe
Gjergi Keche
Cup Aliu

Kethelle - Epper - (Diber)

Adam Chara
Umer Mertuce

Mal e Ze (Diber)

Gen Ramani

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Cham

Cham (Diber)

Sali Aga

Dukagjin (Diber)

Vegi Hoxha

Mamoz (Diber)

Han Miftari
Xhemin Shaheti

Mici (Kossova)

Ethem Destani

Kolsh (Luma)

Mure Brahimi

Ram Has (Kossova)

Vasei Halimi

Gegin (Kossova)

Rakep Elaze
Osman Nerguti

Perbergi (Kossova)

Husen Kadriu

Bitse (?)

Athem Barjaktari
Haki Hoxha
San Kamberi
Yashar Biftari
Hamdi Salli
Aslan Hoxha

Jabritci (?)

Shacir Shabani

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Nazif Dani

Mazif Dani
Nue Gjani

Kolesjan (Kossova)

Isiam Lamiq
Mahmut Korbi
Shefar Korbi
Mersim Xhefar
Hasan Meelimi
Fasle Mustafa

Vranisht (Berat)

Musli Ibishi

Krume (Kossova)

Azar Beca

Helshan (Kossova)

Barjaktari Helshanit

Kosturi (Kossova)

Hasan Isufi

Sheke (Kossova)

Hasan Kadru

Reo (Kossova)

HAKIK Doda

Cheran (Kossova)

Flak Shehu

Brute (Kossova)

Jemin Chaciri

Shumro (Kossova)

Bajram Aliu
Miftar Aga

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Sakat

Skat (Sakat) Kossova

Rustem Hadiri
Shaq Hadiri

Kukes (Kossova)

Nazmi Shalku (Director of Bashkimi)
Shcuri Lama (Ass't. to Director of Bashkimi)

Basku Tekroku (from Skoder) (All employees in
Tode Vasili (from Korea) Civil Affairs
Edit Sherfise (from Tirana) Office in Kukes)

and Lt. Ibrahim Ramadan (from Bitse stationed
in Kukes)

(2) There are organizations in the following towns:

- (a) Skoder - pass word KONDI KUQE - leaders are Gjin Marku and Kol Pali. There are 63 members in this organization. This information was given by Xhefar Miftat. Pine stated that this group asked for material aid.
- (b) There is a group in Korea but nothing is known about them.

No known active resistance has been taken by either of these groups.

III. Communist Party Leaders in Pine Tree Area:

1. Kukes:

Capt. Zelfi Salhe (Chief of the Sigurimi in
Kukes, newly appointed)

Surroj:

Sadik Rahani
Bajram Rahani

2. There have been no brutalities in this area recently. It has been rumored that persons sentenced to death are no longer shot but are gased, the reason for this is that the population is less aroused when they are now aware of people being shot.

(3) Some Communists are liked only because they are Nationalists at heart and maintain their good name in the Party to aid friends.

(4) The only known purges which have been carried out were a result of the Second Congress Meeting.

IV Arrests

The following persons were arrested between December and January:

Kheladin Peposhi
Ramiz Peposhi
Shaban Peposhi
Selman Peposhi
Miftar Ahmeti
Sed Gjamaliu
Hasan Maliq
Xhefar Miftar
Mahmut Gjema
Sam Kamberi
Osman Nerguti
Latif Vata
Dean Vata
Dostan Vata
Sali Hani
Mehmet Hani
Demire Gjema
Osman Kadriu
Husni Veliu
Rexhip Dokuzi

All these persons were members of the organization in Luma which was discovered as reported in S.I. letter # 8 dated 10 April 1952. They were arrested for the aid they had given Pine tree. They were all jailed in Skoder, however no action has been taken against their families.

V. Arms

(a) Arms maybe and are hidden in many homes and supplies may be hidden in mountain areas. Civilians often, under the cover of darkness, go into the mountains.

(b) Arms are only carried by those trusted by the Party.

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These arms are usually German, Italian or Czech.

- (c) Each person is given from 60-100 rounds of ammo.

VI. Committee Activity

- (a) The Committee (NCFA) is highly thought of by all the population

(b) NCFA leaflets have been seen - usually they are passed from one person to the other. They are well received by the population. Humorous cartoons seem to have the greatest appeal.

- (c) BCBegood:

The only news about BCBegood received by Pine was through the Tirana radio. The population was told that the food came from the Americans and that it was poisoned. The population is not allowed to keep the food.

- (d) Public feeling toward Anglo-American aid for liberation is very strong.

(e) Public feeling toward Yugoslavia sponsored teams is bad. The population feels that the evil from Yugoslavian Communism is as that of their present government. It is felt that liberation by the Yugoslavs would be only a sham liberation.

(f) The Prizren Committee is not regarded favorably either by the Albanians in Yugoslavia or those in Albania. It is believed that the Prizren Committee is acting in the name of the Yugoslav Government. According to source the emigrants in Yugoslavia desire to make contact with the NCFA but are forbidden to do so by the Yugoslav Government.

(g) The general feeling toward Greece is not favorable, the population fears that Greece desires territorial gains.

VII. Russian Influence:

(a) Public attitude toward Russia is that they send broken down machinery to Albania and in turn get all of Albania's food.

- (b) No Russian technicians or military men were seen.

(c) Some Albanians do go to Russia to study. Upon completion of their studies they return to Albania. Pine Tree did not encounter anyone who had studied in Russia.

VIII. Satellites:

(a) Information from Albania and from contacts made in Yugoslavia indicate that Bulgarian technicians and military men are present in Albania. The technicians are employed as advisors in the Hoxha built factories. The military men are employed in a similar capacity in the army.

(b) Pine Tree had no evidence of Germans or other satellite nationals working in the country.

IX. Personal Ideas about the Future Government:

Liman Peposhi:

Desires a democracy derived from the will of the people. A free Albania which will not live in constant fear of territorial loss.

Faik Dalip:

Adheres to the Balli Kombetar line.

Vata Tahir:

A free Albania where one may speak and work as he wishes.

Koci Dula:

Adheres to Balli Kombetar line.

X. Anti-Resistance and Security Forces:

(a) Kukes:

Capt. Zelfi Salhe, Chief of the Sigurimi

Surroj:

Zenel Rahani
Rajram Rahani

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(b)

(b) Shteca:

Zanel Honuzi - is an informer

(c) Only the faithful of the Party are armed - their jobs are varied.

(d) The only Pursuit Battalion the source knows of is the one in Kukes. They move only when word is received that groups are in their area. They are usually armed with Russian weapons (type unknown). This battalion has been present in Kukes for about one year. It is believed they were brought into this area shortly after Pine was infiltrated. They were formerly stationed in Tirana. The patrolling action is confined to daylight during which time civilians (unarmed) are forced to walk in front of the searching units. No night patrolling is carried on. This detachment as all others (Pursuit Units) is loyal to Hoxha.

(e) About one-fourth of the police are loyal to Hoxha.

(f) Guarded Areas and Posts:

1. The footbridge at Unisht is guarded by 5 men of the Sigurimi.
2. Motorbridge at Rec is guarded by one squad of soldiers.
3. Kula e Luma has a motor bridge guarded by a squad of soldiers.

(g) Military Clothing:

Clothing worn by the Army is similar to the British type with combat jacket. Shoes are high top-hobnailed. Hat is overseas type, similar to the Yugoslav types, with red star.

Distinguishing marks on uniforms are as follows:

- (1) A red diamond on each collar indicates the Sigurimi.
- (2) A yellow diamond on each collar indicates the army.

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- (3) Sigurimi usually carry Russian or Czech rifles
Army - Russian rifles
Border Guards - Germany rifles

(h) There are no signs of mobilization. Fortifications are being built on the Yugoslav and Greek borders at Mire Sukas, Manze and Nica to Drin. These fortifications are holes dug in the earth with log roofs covered by rocks and dirt. There are also fortifications of this type at Korricnie, about 800 meters from the border, Has and Pose e Thate.

All of the work on these fortifications has been done by the army. It has recently been rumored that a great deal of night work has been carried on along the Yugoslav border.

There are summer tent areas from Perbreg to Gjini and at Has.

XI. Airfields:

The airfield at Rukes is approximately 1200 meters long. It has grass runways. In the seven months that the source was in the area no planes were seen at this field.

No Russian or Albanian airforce officers were seen.

XII. Communications:

- (a) There is a control on mail but letters are allowed from Satellite countries and Italy once a week. There is a heavy censorship on outgoing mail, internal mail is also censored.
- (b) Postage for internal letters costs from 5-7 lek.
- (c) All packages are censored at the originating post office.
- (d) All telephones are under government control, calls are allowed to all parts of the country. Permission is required for all telephone calls. It is known that calls are allowed to Yugoslavia (one of the team members received a call from Pogradec, Albania to Skup, Yugoslavia).
- (e) Telegrams are allowed to satellite countries.

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(f) Only Party members are believed to have radios. Radio ownership is controlled by the government.

(g) There was no electricity in the villages visited by this team.

(h) MCEA Radio:

(1) The Committee radio was heard many times at 19:30 hours. The reception was reported to be very clear.

(2) While in Yugoslavia the team was able to hear the radio only during the noon broadcast.

(3) The emigrants in Yugoslavia think very highly of the Committee radio.

(4) There is no doubt that they heard the Committee radio as they were able to give messages which had been sent for the "Fighters of Freedom". In addition they heard the message directed to them.

(5) They report that there was no jamming of any type in Albania.

XIII. Travel:

(a) Permission is required for travel when the trip exceeds 8 hours journey from the originating village.

(b) Travel from town to town is done on foot or horse-back.

(c) Buses are used when travelling from city to city, however, the source never had the opportunity to use the bus service.

XIV. General Living Conditions:

(a) The lek is the only money in circulation, however, gold pounds may be exchanged in Skoder.

(b) American dollars in some cases will exchange for 180 lek to the dollar.

(c) The denominations of the lek most commonly used

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are: 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100.

(d) All food and clothing items are rationed.

(e) Items may be bartered in State Stores, items of greatest barter value are butter, meat, sugar, rice, coffee, wheat and corn.

(f) All medicines may be exchanged.

XV. Collectivization:

Nothing new is known concerning collectivization. However, it has been rumored that there will be no new collectives.

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ALSO SEE MEMO

to 1725

MEMORANDUM

12 July 1952

Subject: Pine Tree Debriefing - Part III - BGFriend

To : [] J

From : [] J

Part III of the debriefing contains the personal comments of the team members and the reasons for their misunderstandings and failures.

I. (1) Of major importance, Pine Team with the exception of Little Pine, felt that security was lacking throughout the whole mission. It was further felt by the resupply team that Husni Peposhi was allowed to know more about the mission than was considered security wise. It is believed that Husni Peposhi's capture and subsequent questioning brought about the arrests of the other persons who aided the team.

(2) The team fell out of harmony because:

(a) A letter supposedly sent by Asllan Zenele and George Goga to Ramadan Velis (Cina) was intercepted by Pine team. This letter caused a great deal of ill feeling toward the NCFA and in the opinion of Pine Tree this breach of security was so grave that it endangered their lives.

(b) Little Pine on several occasions was said to have made slanderous remarks about members of the NCFA. (It appears that these remarks were directed toward BK leaders)

(c) In the opinion of the three other members of Pine Tree, Little Pine refused to consult them in any way concerning their activities during the mission. (Little Pine insists that at no time were there any misunderstandings among the team members.)

(d) Little Pine was not working as the rest of the team members, in the name of the NCFA, but for Bajraktari interests. Little Pine, of course, this is not true.

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(3) There was a great deal of disagreement among the team members as to the fate of Red One Team. It goes from one extreme of Red One's attempt to contact Pine to no effort being made to contact them. The story concerning Red One is contained in Part I of the debriefing.

II. (1) The team returned to this base in generally good health and high morale. The exception being Little Pine. His attitude since his arrival has been anything but cooperative. Due to his desire to withhold additional information until persuaded to hand it over at the last minute, a part four will be forwarded in the near future.

(2) Pine Tree in general was strong in their praise for the training and support given by this station. Although it is sincerely felt that Pine did not set the world on fire with their mission, it did prove that with proper contacts and support even a low caliber team can exist and operate for long periods of time.

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MEMORANDUM

11 July 1952

Subject: Commo Debriefing of Pine Tree W/T Operator

To : ()

From : ()

The de-briefing of W/T operator Pixie/1 who was assigned to operation Pine Tree was held 5 July 1952 at a safehouse.

Persons present at this debriefing were () and the radio operator Pixie/1.

() acted as translator for questions asked by () and () .

Pixie/1 with the Pine Tree team left their operational base from Albania in the fall of 1951 for Yugoslavia and never returned to their base of operations, as a result no radio contacts were attempted at any time during 1952.

Before leaving their base in Albania the radio operator with the help of two other men of the Pine Tree team buried his sets. Before the set was buried it was wrapped and tightened in blankets. Burial was made under the room of their base safe house, in a hole approximately five feet deep. The operator stated he chose the spot because he believed the spot would be dry and free from moisture. The two men who helped bury the set were later captured and it is not known if the burial spot had been divulged.

The W/T operator buried the crystals himself and no one else knows of the burial spot. The crystals were put into a can, sealed and wrapped in a coat, a rock placed over the coat and buried in a hole approximately 20 centimeters deep.

Primary signal plan EToder and back-up signal plan BYCKER with instructional documents YONCEL #215 and ZIBHIM #248 were returned to the training officer.

The operator stated he used to set up his antenna, which was 30 meters long, one-half hour before scheduled contact time. The base was heard within the first five minutes. It had taken him approximately three minutes to set up the radio equipment and tune the transmitter.

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No contacts were established on his first two attempted contacts due to his antenna being too short and of heavy atom-spherics.

He stated that he enjoyed working with the RS-1 equipment and likes it very much.

The cryptographic pads were taken by the radio operator to Yugoslavia, and at a time when everyone was sleeping he thoroughly burned the pads.

All of his enciphering and deciphering was done outside of the base safehouse and no one saw him doing the work. The crypto pads and crystals were hidden in one place and the radion equipment in another inside the safe house.

The plain text of both the encipher and decipher was destroyed immediately after he was finished. He read the deciphered messages to the leader of the team and then burned his copy. In enciphering plain text and converted plain text were on one piece of paper and the cipher text on a separate piece of paper. Each piece was destroyed when he finished with them. The pages in the crypto pads were also burned as they were used.

Depending on the length of the message he usually enciphered a message one and a half to two hours before his scheduled contact time.

Pixie/1 further stated that no garbled messages were received from the PYREX base. Readability of the base was always good.

He was asked to quote us his danger signals and this was done without any difficulty, even after seven months of inactivity. He said he used to read his instructional documents every four or five days so that he would not forget anything that was taught him.

The radio operator stated that he realized he was slow in sending and receiving and that he had a difficult time in recognizing radio call signs. He believes more emphasis could have been placed in code training and that he would have liked to have had more time on-the-air radio training contacts during his training in Germany. He did state that the base did not send at a faster speed than he could copy which was very helpful to him.

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VERY IMPORTANT

Pixie/1 stated that the conversion chart is not practical from an agent standpoint and should be revised. The digraphs are not designed for the Albanian language and is difficult to work with, it has combinations that do not appear in the Albanian language. This was his only disagreement as far as cryptographic procedures were concerned.

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